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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making
Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and promoting
the analysis and dissemination of best practices**

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Fourteenth session

Ankara, Turkey, 13–22 October 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of best practices in the implementation
of the Convention
Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best
practices**

Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal

Note by the secretariat

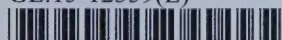
Summary

By its decision 17/COP.11, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested Parties and the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies to take a number of actions, including on: (a) the compilation and dissemination of best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation; (b) the compilation and dissemination of best practices relating to other thematic topics; (c) accessibility of data; (d) validation and ensuring the effective use of best practices; and (e) the cooperation between the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST).

By its decision 24/COP.11, the COP also provided guidance on further improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories.

The present document contains a reports on activities carried out by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in this regard, as prescribed by the aforementioned decisions, and presents options for consideration by the CRIC and the CST on how to bring this matter forward.

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I. Introduction and background information

1. By its decision 15/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to review the accessibility to information on best practices. It requested the secretariat to identify recommended databases for each thematic topic of UNCCD best practices, to which data and information stored in the database of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) should be transferred.

2. By the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to transfer the existing sustainable land management (SLM) best practices¹ in the PRAIS to the recommended database, once it is identified, and then to replace the existing PRAIS best practices with a link to the recommended database.

3. By decision 17/COP.11, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) where relevant:

(a) To complete the selection of the primary recommended database for SLM best practices;

(b) To identify the services that primary recommended institutions and databases should deliver in order to assist the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in compiling and disseminating SLM best practices and the tentative period for which such services should be rendered;

(c) To make arrangements immediately after the eleventh session of the COP (COP 11) on modalities on the operation of the SLM best practices database provided that the arrangements are cost-effective and sustainable;

(d) To conclude the required administrative and legal arrangements in order to transfer data and information on SLM best practices stored in the PRAIS database.

4. By the same decision, the COP also requested the secretariat to apply the same framework defined for SLM best practices to the other six thematic topics,² including by selecting a primary recommended database for each of them where possible.

5. Finally, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate cooperation between partners of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and the institution(s)/database(s) that will be tasked with the compilation and dissemination of relevant best practices. The SKBP, which was the result of decision 3/COP.8,³ and whose mandate was further refined by decision 21/COP.10 and decision 24/COP.11, is intended to act as a “bridge to bridges” and thus serve as a mechanism for facilitating the access of Parties to best practice knowledge and information in existing knowledge bases.

6. At the request of the Bureau of the CRIC, the secretariat submitted for the information of the Committee at its thirteenth session (CRIC 13) a document entitled: “Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention: accessibility of information on best practices”.

7. CRIC 13 deliberated that feedback from Parties on the aforementioned matters would be required and invited them to provide written input on the aforementioned

¹ Best practices on “sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation”.

² As referred to in annex V of decision 13/COP.9.

³ By decision 3/COP.8, the COP mandated the CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, to create and steer knowledge management systems aiming to improve the brokering of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end users.

document, including through their regional and interest groups, before 1 June 2015. This deadline was then postponed to 1 July 2015 by decision of the Bureau of the CRIC.

8. Taking into consideration: (a) the feedback received from Parties; (b) the time required to complete the process outlined in decisions 15/COP.10 and 17/COP.11 for the SLM best practices; and (c) the difficulties faced with finding databases relevant to the other thematic topics of best practices to which reporting entities shall submit information, this document proposes, inter alia, a different approach and alternative options for the consideration of Parties in their guidance on how to facilitate access by Parties and other stakeholders to relevant information on the other best practices thematic topics.

II. Facilitating access and promoting the dissemination of best practices

A. Sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation

9. On 25 November 2013, the secretariat invited the five organizations identified through the call for expressions of interest to confirm their commitment to discharging the services associated with a primary recommended database for best practices until December 2018, and to indicate the terms and conditions under which such services would be rendered with particular regard to the required budget. In this regard, the organizations were requested to either cover the entire costs of this operation with their own human and financial resources or to raise the required funds before the conclusion of an agreement.

10. By the deadline of 10 December 2013, two proposals were received from the following institutions: the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT); and ENDA – Energy Environment Development.

11. On 16 December 2013, the secretariat notified WOCAT that the submitted proposal had been rated as the most suitable from a technical standpoint. In the same communication, the secretariat reiterated that WOCAT should cover the cost of the operation through its own human and financial resources, that appropriate monitoring and orientation mechanisms should be established, such as a steering committee or similar, and that the other organizations having expressed an interest in assisting in the compilation and dissemination of information on SLM best practices should be further involved in the implementation of the initiative.

12. In January 2014, the secretariat initiated consultations with the University of Bern (Switzerland) and WOCAT. An agreement was signed on 15 April 2014 between the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern and the secretariat on improving accessibility to information on SLM best practices. The University of Bern/CDE identified the WOCAT secretariat as executing agency of the agreement, while remaining accountable for the implementation of the agreement and meeting its obligations thereunder.

13. According to the said agreement, the University of Bern/CDE shall:

(a) Receive the data on SLM best practices contained in the PRAIS database, and categorize the entries submitted before 2012 according to the classification adopted by the COP;

(b) Maintain the database and ensure the integrity of the data submitted by Parties;

(c) Establish an online facility to allow Parties and other reporting entities to continue uploading information on SLM best practices, and establish standards for quality, relevance and accuracy of information in conformity with guidance received from the COP;

(d) Make data and information on SLM best practices available according to the classification adopted by the COP, including through the SKBP, and ensure interoperability with the secretariat's knowledge products;

(e) Abide by the UNCCD policy for accessing data and information provided by Parties and other reporting entities and, in particular, by the intellectual property provisions protecting technological innovations submitted as best practices cases;

(f) Facilitate the involvement of other organizations in the implementation of the initiative, that is, those having expressed an interest in assisting in the compilation and dissemination of information on SLM best practices, especially those from affected country Parties.

14. By the same agreement, a Steering Committee was established with the mandate of reviewing the compliance of the two parties with the obligations contained in the agreement, and providing strategic guidance on the implementation of the agreement.⁴

15. With reference to the UNCCD secretariat's obligations, the following actions were taken:

(a) On 17 April 2014, all Parties to the UNCCD were notified through their national focal points that the WOCAT secretariat had been identified as the primary recommended database of SLM best practices. In the same communication, Parties were invited to continue compiling cases of such best practices and reporting them to the WOCAT secretariat;

(b) On 4 July 2014, upon acceptance by WOCAT of the terms and conditions for the use of data and information, including for property rights, data and information on SLM best practices contained in the PRAIS database were transferred to the WOCAT secretariat.

16. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was convened on 28 November 2014 via videoconference. The following matters were addressed, and the following recommendations made by the Committee:

(a) **Reception and categorization of data on SLM best practices:** data contained in the PRAIS database were received for a total of 400 valid data sets; the 2010 and 2012 data sets were analysed, and the categorization of the 2012 data set was still ongoing at the time the Steering Committee met. Owing to the constraints in the migration of data, the secretariat will facilitate a database dump of 2010 and 2012 data. Some concerns were expressed with regard to the quality and the completeness of the data reported by Parties and other reporting entities,⁵ and the need to follow up with the submitters was reiterated. In this regard, the Steering Committee recommended that the UNCCD original template be maintained as a minimum format for reporting on SLM best

⁴ The Steering Committee comprises one representative of the UNCCD secretariat, one representative of the University of Bern/CDE and one representative of the WOCAT secretariat, which will serve as secretariat of the Committee.

⁵ High number of incomplete or duplicated data sets; high number (10–50 per cent) of questions which have not been answered (data gaps); high percentage of misunderstandings and entries which do not refer to the question (unusable or meaningless data); 15–20 per cent of data sets do not refer to technologies but to other types of best practices, such as approaches, methods, tools, etc.

practices and adjusted⁶ to improve the quality of data to be reviewed and further compiled;

(b) **Establishment of an online facility to allow Parties to continue submitting SLM best practices and retrieving the information:** a detailed time line for the SLM best practices mandate has been presented, including the development of the online system in early 2015, testing in April 2015 and final release of the system in September 2015, by which time all PRAIS data would be imported into the new system and available for external query, and the compilation of new data would begin;

(c) **Involvement of the other interested organizations:** the four organizations interested in assisting in the compilation and dissemination of information on SLM best practices should be involved in the testing phase of the reporting template. Furthermore, selected key Parties from all regions should be involved in testing the online facility.

17. As of 1 July, a total of 33 written contributions from Parties and 2 written contributions from Regional Annexes on the aforementioned matter were received by the secretariat. These contributions are set out in full in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/MISC.1, while a short summary of views expressed by Parties is reported in the following paragraphs:

(a) **Improving the reporting tools and facilities for SLM best practices:** Information on SLM best practices has been confirmed as an essential element of UNCCD reporting. However, some Parties expressed the need to review the reporting template on SLM best practices and to issue new guidelines for the compilation and submission of such information. It was thus suggested that the Parties contribute themselves to improving the reporting template as it is they who are requested to compile, share and ultimately use this information. In addition, some Parties highlighted the importance of an electronic format in terms of facilitating reporting on SLM best practices, including options to upload visual and multimedia files, explanations and specifications as necessary. Along the same lines, other Parties also recommended that an online platform be created to facilitate regular submissions of information on SLM best practices from all reporting entities and simultaneously retrieve such information. The importance of testing the reporting tools and the online platform before the next reporting exercise has been stressed in many submissions, with some of them calling for a full report on the testing phase to be circulated to the governing bodies for consideration;

(b) **Increasing the reporting submission response:** According to some Parties, improving reporting tools, including online facilities, templates and guidelines, is not sufficient alone. Further action must be taken in terms of devising appropriate processes and continuing to encourage reporting entities to share information on a regular basis. According to the revised reporting requirements, there should be a permanent call for submission of SLM best practices, and periodical reminders sent to all Parties, reporting entities and other relevant stakeholders;

(c) **Improving stakeholder capacities through capacity-building activities:** Along the same lines, it was also stressed that any improvement in the reporting procedures should be complemented by targeted capacity-building. Many Parties fear that improving stakeholder capabilities remains a major issue, including the identification and validation of SLM best practices. Training activities on the reporting of best practices, user manuals and guidelines were suggested as a possible solution, in addition to online tutorials;

(d) **Financial sustainability for database functioning and data reliability:** The issue of the sustainability of the SLM best practices system over the long-term was

⁶ Adjustment would include the categorization/structuring of questions and the inclusion of visual elements and definitions, explanations and specifications.

addressed in some submissions. Some Parties stressed the need to explore additional funding options to ensure the functionality of the online database and the integrity of the information provided. In their view, fundraising should be incorporated into the work programmes of the secretariat and the University of Bern/CDE. In line with this proposal, other Parties underlined yet uncompleted work in terms of mobilizing financing from all existing resources and ensuring that both existing and emerging financial mechanisms function more effectively and on a more accessible basis. Conversely, other Parties expressed concerns about the costs created for this process and urged the secretariat to consider simpler and more cost-effective approaches for the other best practices thematic topics;

(e) Accessing and effectively using information on SLM best practices:

According to the relevant decisions of the COP, the PRAIS SLM best practices database has been transferred to the University of Bern/CDE. However, following the WOCAT analysis of the PRAIS database along with its structure and content, it is clear that adjustments are necessary if it is to be integrated into the WOCAT platform. Thus, the PRAIS data is not yet available through the WOCAT website. While some Parties called for this data to be published, to allow research and information-gathering on SLM best practices, other Parties are more concerned about the contents of this database, which focus more on the technological aspects of SLM best practices but exclude information on approaches, methods and tools, which are considered equally important in the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). Other Parties reiterated that when publishing information on SLM best practices, particular attention should be paid to legal aspects such as the property rights of the technology.

18. While the development of the online reporting application is under way, a revised reporting template will be presented at the fourteenth session of the CRIC. The revised template will: (a) feature user-friendly data entry; (b) feature tagged questions; (c) be based on structured questions complemented by free text entries; and (d) include visual elements and questions on SLM approaches.

B. Funding and resource mobilization

19. Since the last deliberation of the CRIC on the issue, when the GM reported that its call for expression of interest to identify a primary recommended database on best practices on “funding and resource mobilization” had not met with any expression of interest, several new lines of thought regarding the reporting on best practices have emerged, for this and other thematic topics decided on by the COP (see section II.C below).

20. COP and CRIC discussions have led to the conclusion that some of the thematic topics may not lend themselves as easily to national reporting on best practices as the SLM practices, where it is relatively easy to identify areas of relevance and there is no zero-sum game in divulging the information. Ultimately, there has been uncertainty on the type of information Parties would like to see and have access to, which has contributed to the difficulty in identifying a recommended database for national information. What has become evident, however, is that Parties would like to see information on potentially useful funding mechanisms in terms of UNCCD implementation, and how to access these funds, including for project design. As suggested below, one option is to use expert organizations and the knowledge management infrastructure in place within the GM and the secretariat.

21. Through funding from the government of Norway and the European Commission, the GM has developed the “Finance Info Kit” – a directory outlining financial sources, mechanisms and funds relevant to SLM. It is intended to be an information kit for country Parties, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other partners engaged in fighting land

degradation and promoting sustainable land use practices who may need guidance towards funding opportunities. The kit, which contains information on climate change financial resources, inter alia, can be found at the following web address <<http://global-mechanism.org/our-services/finance-info-kit>>.⁷

22. Information on the Finance Info Kit includes:

(a) **Sources of Funding** such as development partners, special funds and aid instruments relevant to SLM;

(b) **Financial mechanisms** that can be used to channel funds to SLM, and to provide the necessary incentives for public and private investments in SLM practices;

(c) **Tools for making the case** for increased and improved investment in SLM.

23. A search function is available to browse the content of the Finance Info Kit according to the region and theme of relevance for each source of funding, including land-based carbon finance, climate change adaptation and mitigation. A keyword search is also in place to maximize the usability of the directory.

24. In a report by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), this platform was cited, in their view, as a “best practices” benchmark among climate change finance information systems in the United Nations system.

25. This effort could be encouraged to continue and enhanced with direct information from appropriate funding mechanisms.

C. Other thematic topics of best practices

26. According to decision 13/COP.9, UNCCD best practices should be collected according to seven thematic topics, of which five have not yet been addressed.⁸ By the same decision, affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have an obligation to report on best practices in accordance with a schedule agreed upon by the COP. CSOs are also encouraged to provide information on best practices through the national focal points.

27. Decision 15/COP.10 directed: (a) the secretariat to provide website links to existing databases relevant to all thematic topics of best practices in order to provide Parties with access to as many best practices as possible; (b) the secretariat to identify a recommended database for each of the thematic topics; (c) Parties to submit best practices to new and existing best practice databases. The same decisions prescribed that future sessions of the CRIC should review the “accessibility of the information on best practices”.

28. Furthermore, the same decision stipulated that the CRIC should have reviewed information on the seven thematic topics of best practices according to the proposed schedule.⁹ As it happened, the proposed timeframe could not be met and information has been compiled exclusively for SLM best practices. As discussed in the previous chapter, a template for reporting on the second theme to be addressed by the CRIC could not be devised, and information on this topic was not compiled.

⁷ The GM is updating its website, which will be launched during COP 12, please check website for possible change in URL.

⁸ These topics are: (a) capacity-building and awareness-raising; (b) DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research; (c) knowledge management and decision support; (d) the policy, legislative and institutional framework; (e) participation, collaboration and networking.

⁹ Decision 15/COP.10, annex, Table 3: Proposed schedule of review of best practice themes 1 to 7.

29. Taking the above into consideration, Parties at COP 11:¹⁰ (a) requested the secretariat to facilitate cooperation between partners of the SKBP and the institution(s)/database(s) that will be tasked with the compilation and dissemination of relevant best practices; and (b) mandated the CRIC and the CST to focus their work on thematic topics of best practices relevant to each of them,¹¹ and invited the Committees to continue interacting on ways to promote coordinated knowledge management efforts and the analysis and dissemination of best practices, with a view in order to contributing to the development of an overall knowledge management infrastructure for the UNCCD. In this regard, joint meetings of the bureaux of the CRIC and the CST took place in Bonn on 5 February and 23 June 2014, also addressing the issue of best practices. However, no specific guidance was provided by the joint meetings on how to bring this matter forward.

30. In this regard, taking into consideration: (a) the call from the COP on facilitating access to information relevant to these thematic topics; (b) the time required to complete the process outlined in decisions 15/COP.10 and 17/COP.11 for the best practices on SLM technologies, including adaptation; (c) the uncertainty with regard to the nature of information relevant to these thematic topics and hence the format to be used to provide such information; and (d) the difficulties faced with finding databases relevant to such best practices to which reporting entities shall submit information, a possible approach would be to identify the institutions with the required expertise and knowledge, provide a link to their websites and/or databases where relevant information is made available and channel this information through the existing knowledge management infrastructure of the secretariat and/or the GM.

31. A similar approach is being used and comparable services being delivered through the SKBP¹² and the Capacity Building Marketplace (CBM)¹³ with regard to knowledge base- and capacity-building, respectively. For instance, should Parties agree to this approach, submission of information on “DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research” best practices to a primary recommended database would be replaced by facilitated access to existing databases and websites (providing tools, methods, case studies and, eventually, data relevant to monitoring and assessment of DLDD and SLM) through the SKBP and in cooperation with primary research institutions and data providers.

III. Improvement of knowledge management

The Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal

32. By decision 3/COP.8, the COP mandated the CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, to create and steer knowledge management systems aiming to improve the brokering of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end

¹⁰ Decision 17/COP.11.

¹¹ The CST should focus on: (a) SLM technologies, including adaptation; (b) DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research; and (c) knowledge management and decision support; and the CRIC on: (a) capacity-building and awareness-raising; (b) policy, legislative and institutional framework; (c) funding and resource mobilization; and (d) participation, collaboration and networking.

¹² Please refer to <<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/Knowledge-Management/Pages/SKBP-Knowledge-Base-Map.aspx>>.

¹³ Please refer to <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Capacity-building/CBW/Pages/default.aspx?utm_source=unccd.int/home&utm_medium=banner&utm_content=center&utm_campaign=CBM>.

users. This mandate, refined by decisions 21/COP.10 and 24/COP.11 and detailed in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/6, outlines the concept of a SKBP.

33. The SKBP is planned to be a “bridge to bridges”, maximizing the work of the entire DLDD community by collaborating with existing data and knowledge bases so as to gather content from primary sources of information and make it available to a wide range of end users, including scientists, policymakers and practitioners.

34. An SKBP pilot was produced in 2014 and further enhanced in 2015. The pilot consists of two parts: (a) providing direct access to content in the knowledge bases of five connected partners through a search interface; and (b) providing access to local knowledge bases, submitted by parties and other reporting entities as part of the reporting and review process. The pilot is a small-scale implementation of the proposed SKBP. A functional prototype was developed to evaluate the long-term feasibility and resources needed to sustain and continue the development of this tool as the main knowledge platform for the dissemination of scientific knowledge, technical knowledge and best practices, as outlined in decision 17/COP.11 and 24/COP.11.

35. The search portal has been developed with financial contributions from the Spanish and Swiss Governments as well as with the in-kind contributions of five SKBP pilot partners, including: the Spanish National Research Council, the World Soil Information, WOCAT, the Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the FAO International System for Agricultural Science and Technology. The Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has contributed expert knowledge and allowed the UNCCD to leverage many of the tools being developed as part of JournalMap and the global Land-Potential Knowledge System. It has been a leading in-kind contributor to the development of the SKBP pilot interactive web maps.

36. Demonstrations of all the components of the SKBP pilot were given at the fourth special session of the CST in March 2015, and the same will be given during COP 12 for country Parties to view and experience.

37. At its meeting on 13 March 2015, the Bureau of the CST recommended that the Roster of Independent Experts be integrated into the SKBP, thus allowing for efficient and easy searches and facilitating easy access to the information on independent experts for country Parties and other stakeholders.

38. In comments provided by Parties on the “Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention: accessibility of information on best practices” document, some Parties advised: (a) making information on progress indicators, as reported by Parties and other Reporting Entities in their national reports, accessible through the SKBP; and (b) providing Parties with information on the budget for further development and running costs associated with the SKBP.

39. The successful pilot was the first major milestone in the development of the SKBP. It has demonstrated that it can serve to: (a) increase awareness of national and regional land degradation findings; (b) simplify the research process, thus allowing users to consult many land degradation resources from one search portal; and (c) allow the potential link of consolidated search results found in the SKBP to mobile applications and other “on-the-ground” tools to facilitate the implementation of sustainable practices on the ground. The pilot has also paved the way for defining the partnership models needed to expand the partner base of knowledge suppliers and users and to recycle and draw increased attention to partner knowledge bases through the SKBP, which functions as a cost-effective, collaborative and efficient knowledge brokering tool.

40. More detailed information on activities undertaken by the secretariat in developing the SKBP and an outline for its further development can be found in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

41. Gathering, dissemination and accessibility in terms of SLM best practices are a key component of UNCCD reporting. Options for increasing the submission rate and actual use of SLM best practices from Parties and other reporting entities include: (a) the preparation of revised reporting tools, including a simplified reporting template to be made available through the WOCAT knowledge management platform; (b) a permanent call for submission of SLM best practices upon Parties and other reporting entities; and (c) capacity-building activities.

42. Activities related to the other best practices thematic topics were unable to advance as originally planned due to, inter alia, uncertainties regarding the nature of information relevant to these thematic topics and difficulties in finding databases relevant to such best practices to which reporting entities would submit information. Considering the above and the time and resources required to complete the process outlined in decisions 15/COP.10 and 17/COP.11 for the SLM technologies best practices, including adaptation, simpler and more cost-effective approaches should be devised for the other best practices thematic topics.

43. As a “bridge to bridges”, the SKBP has the potential to serve as a mechanism for facilitating the access of Parties to best practice knowledge and information in existing knowledge bases. The SKBP pilot has demonstrated that it can serve to increase awareness of national and regional land degradation findings and to simplify the research process. The pilot also allowed the secretariat to define partnership models needed to expand the partner base of knowledge suppliers and users, to identify required next steps, and to estimate the cost of expansion and further development, and the annual running costs associated with the software, hardware, and maintenance of the SKBP.

44. The following proposals may be considered by Parties at CRIC 14 and CST 12 with a view to preparing a draft decision for COP 12:

(a) Urges the University of Bern/CDE and WOCAT (i) to make available a revised reporting template and technical guidelines to be tested by Parties; (ii) to establish an online facility to allow country Parties and other reporting entities to continue uploading information on SLM best practices; and (iii) to make data and information on SLM best practices available, including through the SKBP, as relevant;

(b) Invites Parties to test the revised reporting templates and to provide WOCAT with feedback to enable further adjustments and improvement;

(c) Also invites Parties and other reporting entities to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the knowledge base on SLM;

(d) Requests the secretariat to integrate an SLM best practices component into the capacity-building activities organized in preparation for the next reporting and review exercise, and in any other opportunity that may arise;

(e) Decides that, with the exception of the “SLM technologies, including adaptation” theme, reporting on best practices shall be discontinued and reporting entities shall be released from the current relevant reporting obligations;

(f) Requests the secretariat to identify institutions having the required expertise, knowledge and information regarding the remaining thematic topics, provide a link to their websites and/or databases where relevant information is made available, and channel this information through the SKBP and/or the CBM, as relevant;

(g) Decides that: (i) with regard to the “capacity-building and awareness-raising” thematic topic, the obligations of the secretariat shall continue to be met through the CBM, with any adjustments necessary; (ii) with regard to the “funding and resource mobilization” thematic topic, the GM shall improve its “Finance Info Kit”, establishing partnerships with appropriate funding institutions, mechanisms and funds, and facilitating access to information on existing and emerging funding opportunities relevant to DLDD; (iii) with regard to “DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research” and “knowledge management and decision support” thematic topics, the secretariat shall post relevant information on the SKBP; (iv) with regard to the “policy, legislative and institutional framework” thematic topic, the secretariat and the GM shall post relevant information on the UNCCD website;

(h) The secretariat shall continue to develop and enhance the SKBP in cooperation with partners in order to expand the collection of information accessible through the portal. The SKBP shall facilitate and promote access to relevant knowledge from multiple sources, through various communication channels, including the internet and mobile phones;

(i) Invites developed country Parties and financial institutions to provide financial resources (i) to ensure the functioning and sustainability of the repository on SLM best practices; and (ii) to support the annual running costs, and the expansion and further enhancement and development of the SKBP.

45. The annex to this document contains an estimate of the financial requirements for the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 44 above, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources.

Annex

Financial requirements for the implementation of the activities to be funded from extrabudgetary resources

The table below indicates the budget requirements for the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 44 of this document. These activities will be implemented only if the required funding is secured from extrabudgetary resources.

Activities, cost estimates and possible source of funding

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Cost (euros)</i>	<i>Possible source of funding</i>
Integration by the secretariat of an SLM best practices component into capacity-building activities organized in preparation for the next reporting and review cycle	-	The SLM best practices component could be integrated into capacity-building activities organized in preparation for the next reporting and review cycle at no additional cost. As such, this activity will only be implemented if capacity-building activities are organized as part of a successor GSP, or if other voluntary contributions are made available
Development and maintenance of the Capacity Building Marketplace by the secretariat	150 000	This activity will only be implemented if resources are secured
Enhancement of the "Finance Info Kit" by the GM	50 000	This activity will only be implemented if resources are secured
Development and enhancement of the SKBP by the secretariat	250 000	This activity will be funded by extrabudgetary funds already secured
Total extrabudgetary resources	450 000	

Abbreviations: SLM = sustainable land management; GSP = Global Support Programme;
GM = Global Mechanism; SKBP = Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal



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